

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, GW

SUBJECT: FRG BIDS FOR US SUPPORT FOR UN OUTER SPACE
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. KLAUS GOTTSTEIN, FRG EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE, CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON DEPTOFF (BLACK, IO/UNP) JAN 11 TO HAND OVER AIDE MEMOIRE CONCERNING FRG'S CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC). (PURSUANT TO 1973 UNGA RESOLUTION, OSC IS TO EXPAND FROM 28 TO 37 MEMBERS).

2. AIDE MEMOIRE (COPY POUCHED USUN) POINTS TO FRG'S ACTIVE ROLE IN SPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCAST AND EARTH RESOURCE SURVEY SATELLITES ("BOTH OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO OSC"), AND ITS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF EUROPEAN SPACE ORGANIZATION. NOTE ASSERTS THAT WHEN ENLARGEMENT QUESTION DISCUSSED AT UNGA "ALL PARTICIPATING

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STATES," INCLUDING US, USSR AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,

ASSUMED FRG WOULD GET WEO SEAT. IT ADDS THAT "AN ADDITIONAL SEAT FOR EASTERN EUROPE, WITH EIGHT SEATS ALREADY OVERREPRESENTED IN THE SPACE COMMITTEE, HAS ONLY BEEN PROVIDED FOR IN ORDER TO MEET THE WISHES OF THE GDR FOR EQUAL TREATMENT."

3. GOTTSTEIN ORALLY REVIEWED CONTENTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE, CONCLUDING WITH REITERATED REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT FOR FRG CANDIDACY. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY NOTE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, ADDING THESE PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS:

(A) FRG INDEED HIGHLY QUALIFIED FOR OSC MEMBERSHIP;

(B) PER UNGA RES AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG COSPONSORS, SELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN NEW YORK BY UNGA PRESIDENT IN CONSULTATION WITH OSC CHAIRMAN AND REGIONAL GROUPS WITH NO REGION BEING EXCLUDED FROM ENLARGEMENT; THEREFORE DETERMINATIVE DECISION ON FRG CANDIDACY WILL PRESUMABLY BE BY WEO GROUP;

(C) WHILE IT MIGHT SLIGHTLY OVERSTATE UNIVERSALITY OF ASSUMPTION, AIDE MEMOIRE CORRECTLY NOTES THAT IT WIDELY ASSUMED AT UNGA THAT FRG WOULD GET WEO SEAT.

4. DEPTOFF SUGGESTED THAT IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, FRG UN MISSION MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED TO UNDERSCORE ITS CANDIDACY WITHIN WEO GROUP. GOTTSTEIN SAID HE WOULD PASS SUGGESTION TO NEW YORK. HE ADDED THAT EMBASSY HAD IMPRESSION THAT NETHERLANDS, SPAIN AND TURKEY HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OSC SEAT, BUT WAS UNCLEAR AS TO HOW CURRENT SUCH INTEREST MIGHT BE ON PART OF ANY OF THOSE COUNTRIES. DEPTOFF OBSERVED THAT ONE ADDITIONAL WEO SEAT WAS ALL THAT REALISTICALLY COULD BE EXPECTED IN VIEW OF DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE WEO AND EE REPRESENTATION IN CURRENT OSC COMPOSITION AND EMPHASIS AT UNGA ON RECTIFYING IMBALANCE TO SOME DEGREE. HE ADDED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OSC MEMBERS AGREED THAT EXPANSION BY NINE MEMBERS WAS NEAR PRACTICAL LIMIT IF OSC'S RELATIVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY UNDER CONSENSUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCEDURE WAS TO BE PRESERVED.

5. FOR USUN: IF YOU DEEM FEASIBLE AND ADVISABLE, SUGGEST YOU DISCREETLY CONTACT AUSTRIANS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY COUNTER-CANDIDACIES TO FRG'S HAVE DEVELOPED WITHIN WEO GROUP. YOU MAY ADD THAT FRG HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT REITERATING ITS CANDIDACY AND WE REGARD FRG AS HIGHLY QUALIFIED BUT CONSIDER THIS ESSENTIALLY MATTER

TO BE WORKED OUT IN NEW YORK, WITHIN REGIONAL GROUPINGS
AND WITH LEAST POSSIBLE CONTENTION. IN THIS CONNECTION
WE BELIEVE ALL OSC MEMBERS PERCEIVE WISDOM OF AVOIDING
REOPENING COMMITTEE ENLARGEMENT QUESTION IN MASS FORUM.
YOU SHOULD ALSO APPROACH FRG MISSION, NOTING THAT FRG
EMB HAS GIVEN AIDE MEMOIRE TO DEPT REGARDING CANDIDACY
FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST FRG MISSION
REITERATE ITS CANDIDACY WITHIN WEO GROUP. RUSH

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